



CALTRANS COMMUTER ALERT

August 13, 2008

STATE ROUTE 55 PROJECT ADDS 5 1/2 MILES OF CONTINUOUS ACCESS CARPOOL LANES

Passage of AB2906 provides unrestricted access to Route 55 HOV lanes

Irvine—Carpoolers traveling into Orange County on Route 55 Monday morning, were given an added traffic bonus—the double solid yellow lines that kept them from leaving the carpool lane except at designated locations—were gone.

Temporary striping to continuous access, on a 5 ½ mile stretch of the Costa Mesa Freeway between the 91 interchange and 17th street was completed Monday morning on southbound lanes. Northbound lanes were completed last week. Carpoolers can now move in and out of the carpool lane uninterrupted.

This work was made possible with the passage of Assembly Bill 2906 in June of this year, which cleared the path for Orange County to depart from traditional carpool operational practices to a more flexible approach; including converting limited -access to continuous-access on Route 55. Using an existing \$4million pavement project that was currently underway, Caltrans immediately secured necessary approvals from regulatory agencies and the Federal Highway Administration, to restripe the carpool lanes—and, did so at no cost to the public.

Once completed at the end of August, State Route 55 will be the second freeway in Orange County to offer carpoolers the convenience of a continuous access system.

***For more information relating to this and other freeway projects in Orange County, please contact our Transportation Helpline at 1-800-724-0353 or logon to the District 12 website at www.dot.ca.gov/dist12 for continuing updates on its progress.